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The Tulalip Tribes are the
successors in interest to the
Snohomish, Snoqualmie, and
Skykomish tribes and other
tribes and bands signatory to
the Treaty of Point Elliot

April 17, 2013

RE: Funding Puget Sound Acquisition and Restoration (PSAR) at \$80 Million

To Representatives Dunshee and Warnick, Senators Honeyford and Nelson;

I wanted to thank you for your work and commitment to support the recovery of Puget Sound and Chinook salmon. As I am sure you are aware, our salmon resources are at a critical juncture in Puget Sound. One of the most important actions we must do is to protect and restore critical habitat to ensure that our treaty rights are protected and that Chinook salmon are available in perpetuity. The Puget Sound Acquisition and Restoration (PSAR) fund provides an essential source of funds for restoring our salmon habitat so that we can have robust, harvestable Chinook runs in the future.

Though encouraged by the house and senate proposed capital budgets, we feel it is still not enough to address the large backlog of work that must be accomplished for Puget Sound and we strongly urge you to fully fund the \$80 Million package as was included in Governor Inslee's budget. We are also concerned by the proposal to use the ASARCO and State toxics funds identified by the senate as this has not been used before in this manner. We hope it gets resolved in the end and that PSAR does receive the full \$80 Million.

The Tulalip Tribes work in multiple watersheds in Puget Sound including the Snohomish, Stillaguamish, Whidbey Island and San Juan areas. This funding helps to improve habitat across all watersheds. PSAR funds the most important salmon recovery restoration and protection (acquisition) projects in each of these local areas, including projects that are locally identified through a robust scientific process and that are regionally significant – advancing key benchmarks for overall Puget Sound recovery.

Funding PSAR at \$80 Million would move projects that the Tulalip Tribes have been working with our watershed partners to advance for over 10 years including 400 acres of restored estuary habitat from the Smith Island Estuary Restoration Project and reconnection of key floodplain in the Snoqualmie from the Upper Carlson Floodplain Reconnection project. These two projects address the most important limiting factors and lagging benchmarks to the Snohomish Basin Chinook recovery plan, rearing habitat for juvenile Chinook. In addition, there are at least 19 additional projects in the San Juan, Island, Stillaguamish, and Snohomish watersheds that are teed up and ready to go if we receive the funding at the \$80 Million level. Fully funding PSAR will create jobs, advance our local priorities that are coordinated regionally, and get the results that Puget Sound needs and that we expect. Chinook salmon and Puget Sound recovery cannot wait.

Sincerely,

Terry Williams,
Commissioner of Fisheries and Natural Resources

cc: Representative Frank Chopp

Senator Rodney Tom

Senator Andy Hill

Dist. 40 - Senator Kevin Ranker, Representative Kristine Lytton, Representative Jeff Morris

Dist 10 - Senator Barbara Bailey, Representative Norma Smith, Representative Dave Hayes

Dist 38 - Senator Nick Harper, Representative John McCoy, Representative Mike Sells

Dist 39 - Senator Kirk Pearson, Representative Dan Kristiansen, Representative Elizabeth Scott

Dist 44 - Senator Steve Hobbs, Representative Hans Dunchee, Representative Mike Hope

Dist 5 - Senator Mark Mullet, Representative Jay Rodne, Representative Chad Magendaz